

**South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
Minutes of the April 15, 2021 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA” or “Authority”) took place on Thursday, April 15, 2021, via remote access. Chairman Borowy presided.

Present: Authority – Messrs. Borowy, Cermola, Curseaden, DiSalvo, and Ms. Sack
Management – Mss. Bochan, Gonzalez, Kowalski, Nesteriak, Reckdenwald, Valentin, and Messrs. Bingaman, Norris, Singh, and Triana
RPB – Mr. Havrda
Staff – Mrs. Slubowski

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Reckdenwald, RWA’s Senior Vice President of Corporate Services, reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

At 12:31 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Curseaden, seconded by Mr. Cermola, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to recess the regular meeting to meet as the Pension & Benefit Committee.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

At 1:28 p.m., the Authority reconvened.

Ms. Sack reported that the Pension and Benefit Committee recommended the following resolutions, as discussed at the Pension & Benefit Committee meeting. Mr. Curseaden stated the importance of having a plan, explaining the plan, conducting due diligence, and having valid reasons for changes in the plan. Mr. Curseaden further stated his support for the proposed recommendations and appreciates the guidance and input from management and the consultants. He moved for approval of the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a contribution of \$1,077,926 to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority’s Union Employees’ Retirement Plan, effective for the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority’s Union Employees’ Retirement Plan be changed from the PubG-2010 Total Employee and Annuitant with Scale MP-2019 generational improvements (M/F) to the PubG-2010 Total Employee and Annuitant with Scale MP-2020 generational improvements (M/F), effective for the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021.

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a contribution of \$2,142,513 to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority’s Salaried Employees’ Retirement Plan, effective for the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority’s Salaried Employees’ Retirement Plan be changed from the PubG-2010 Above Median Employee and Annuitant with Scale MP-2019 generational improvements (M/F) to the

PubG-2010 Above Median Employee and Annuitant with Scale MP-2020 generational improvements (M/F), effective for the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021.

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a contribution of \$1,734,198 to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Retired Employees' Contributory Welfare Trust, effective for the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority approves that the mortality table for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Retired Employees' Contributory Welfare Trust be changed from the PubG.H.-2010 Employee and Healthy Annuitant with Scale MP-2019 generational improvements (M/F) to the PubG.H.-2010 Employee and Healthy Annuitant with Scale MP-2020 generational improvements (M/F), effective as of the actuarial valuation of January 1, 2021.

RESOLVED, that based, on the recommendation of its Pension & Benefit Committee, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority authorizes an increase of \$1,094,561 as a combined contribution to the South Central Connecticut Retirement Plan and the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority Salaried Employees' Retirement Plan during fiscal year 2021.

Ms. Sack seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote and the resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

On motion made by Ms. Sack, seconded by Mr. Cermola, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to approve, adopt, or receive, as appropriate, the following items in the Consent Agenda, as amended:

1. Minutes March 18, 2021 and April 1, 2021 meetings
2. Capital budget authorization for May 2021

RESOLVED, that the Vice-President of Financial Reporting and Analysis is authorized to submit to the Trustee one or more requisitions in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the month of May 2021 for transfer from the Construction Fund for capital expenditures. Each such requisition shall contain or be accompanied by a certificate identifying such requisition and stating that the amount to be withdrawn pursuant to such requisition is a proper charge to the Construction Fund. Such requisitions are approved notwithstanding the fact that amounts to be withdrawn for a particular project may exceed the amount indicated for such month and year in the current Capital Improvement Budget but will not cause the aggregate amount budgeted for Fiscal Year 2021 for all Capital Improvement Projects to be exceeded.

3. Capital Budget Transfer Notifications for May 2021
4. Monthly Financial Report – March 2021
5. Accounts Receivable Update - March 2021
6. Derby Tank Update
7. North Cheshire Update

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

Ms. Nesteriak, RWA’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, reported on activities over the past month, which included:

- Employee health metrics
- Vaccination clinic at the RWA
- Return to work schedule

Mr. DiSalvo noted that the Authority should receive a draft protocol for the return to work plan for discussion at its May meeting.

Mr. Bingaman, RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer:

- Reported on the RWA’s efforts to acquire a commercial business. He stated that a letter of intent, including a deal structure, was sent to a local company. Efforts to advance the PipeSafe product extension are advancing and currently undergoing feature and pricing validation with an actuarial firm.
- Provided a recruitment update. The RWA is currently searching for candidates to fill the positions of Vice President of Financial Services, Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, and Director of Employee Relations. Interviews are underway.
- Highlighted an opinion article he submitted to the CT Mirror in honor of World Water Day last month. The article discussed the importance of reliable, high quality drinking water and the need to protect it. It also identified the value of investing in drinking water infrastructure for social, environmental and economic benefits and called upon individuals and lawmakers to support legislation for water infrastructure improvements.
- Provided an update on the status of his letter to Congresswoman DeLauro to request her support to include water authorities in the stimulus funding. He also stated that management is working with a professional grant writer to apply for federal grants to assist with funding for infrastructure projects.
- Reported that in March he and Ms. Reckdenwald met with officials of the e Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce (“GNHCC”) and received an update on the Business Retention and Growth initiative during 2020. The program is designed to connect with small and medium sized businesses to understand needs and respond with resources. Despite efforts ceasing in mid-March and not resuming until August 2020, the Chamber’s business retention and growth program specialist has visited with 136 area companies, provided almost 300 resources for information, education, and advocacy and discovered more than 340 new job potentials.
- Highlighted his status as Founding Member of the Conscious Capitalism Senior Leader Network, whose purpose is to make life better for people.

At 1:34 p.m., Mss. Bochan, Gonzalez, and Valentin entered the meeting.

Mr. Singh, the RWA’s Chief Information Digital Officer and Vice President of Customer Care, Ms. Bochan, the RWA’s Business Transformation Director, and Ms. Gonzalez, the RWA’s Director of Service, provided a 3-year Customer Care Realignment Transformation Update, which included:

- Customer care vision & experience strategy
- Current landscape and impacts on service
- Journey & roadmap
- RWA & Customer opportunities
- Customer portal & mobile application
- Key transformation themes & potential benefits
- Digital enablement
- Virtual assistants

Mss. Bochan and Gonzalez provided an AMI Benefits Realization Walk, which included:

- Key points
- Cost/benefit realization

At 3:02 p.m., Mss. Bochan, Gonzalez and Valentin withdrew from the meeting and Mr. Triana entered the meeting.

Authority members reported on recent Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) committee meetings.

Mr. Norris, the RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, and Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, held a discussion regarding the transfer of option to purchase land at 475 Putnam Avenue in Hamden.

Chair Borowy stated his support of the transfer.

After discussion, Mr. DiSalvo moved for approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Authority hereby approves the transfer of an Option to purchase 88.8 acres south of between Treadwell St. in Hamden to the Hamden Land Conservation Trust. This Option was created by an Agreement between the Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation and the New Haven Water Company on May 7,1964 and is filed on the Town of Hamden Land Records in Volume 484, pages 384-389 on May 14, 1964; and

Further Resolved, that the President and CEO and the Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer are authorized to take any and all actions necessary to complete the transfer.

Ms. Sack seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote:

Borowy	Aye
Cermola	Aye
Curseaden	Aye
DiSalvo	Aye
Sack	Aye

Chair Borowy acknowledged Mr. Cermola and stated that this may be his last meeting as Authority member. The Representative Policy Board Nominating Committee will recommend one of the candidates, referred by Mayor Elicker, at the Representative Policy Board meeting tonight to fill Mr. Cermola’s expired term.

He thanked Mr. Cermola for his years of service, since before the formation of the Regional Water Authority. His experience with engineering and finance have contributed greatly to the organization. Other members thanked Mr. Cermola for his service.

Mr. Cermola stated that it has been an honor and privilege to work with the board members and management and he wished the Regional Water Authority success in the future.

At 3:10 p.m., Messrs. Havrda, Norris, Singh, and Triana, withdrew from the meeting and on motion made by Mr. DiSalvo, seconded by Ms. Sack, and unanimously carried, the Authority voted to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Present in executive session were the Authority members, Mr. Bingaman and Mss. Nesteriak, Kowalski, Reckdenwald and Slubowski.

At 3:36 p.m., the Authority came out of executive session and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Curseaden, Secretary